

**Livable Delaware Advisory Council
February 9, 2004
Paradee Center, Dover**

Minutes

The Governor's Advisory Council on Planning Coordination held a meeting on Monday, February 9, 2004 at the UofD Paradee Center, State Personnel Training Center, Dover, Delaware.

Members Present: Lt. Governor John Carney, Chair

**Joe Carrado
Secretary Nathan Hayward
Secretary John Hughes
Randy Marvel
Robert McLeod
Paul Morrill
Ken Murphy
Marty Ross
Representative Roger Roy
Lori Spagnolo
Robert Stickels
Lee Ann Walling
Rick Woodin**

Members Absent: Director Judy McKinney Cherry

**Sherry Freebery
Joe Myer
Richard Pryor
Secretary Michael Scuse
Senator Robert L. Venables**

Others Present:

**Charles Baker, New Castle County
Susan Barton, University of Delaware
Doug Gramiak, Lt. Governor's Office
Andrea Kreiner, Governor's Office
Vikram Krishnamurty, Delaware Urban Forestry Council**

PLUS PROCESS

Mr. Carney called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m. Mr. Carney introduced Dave Edgell, State Planning, who gave an update on the newly legislated PLUS Process. Mr. Edgell said that State Planning has been implementing this process w/municipalities on a voluntary basis for the past two and a half years. It has produced some very good dialogue between all parties. State Planning plans on meeting every fourth Wednesday to review plans. Mr. Hughes, although he supports the PLUS bill 100%, said that it will cause additional man hours and had some concerns that developers may take their early comments as an endorsement. Mr. Edgell said that petitioners be reminded that any comments at the beginning of this process will be advisory commentary only. Ms. Walling asked what is going to be done with projects already in the LUPA "pipeline." Mr. Edgell said they will continue to go through the old LUPA process. Mr. Carney asked about plans that will go through the process then change. Mr. Edgell said they will be re-reviewed.

URBAN FORESTRY COUNCIL

Mr. Carney introduced Richard Pratt from the Urban Forestry Council. Mr. Pratt gave a brief introduction of the presenters, Susan Barton from the University of Delaware and Vikram Krishnamurthy from the Delaware Urban Forestry Council. The presentation consisted of mostly before and after photos of the Forestry Council's work along highways, utility right of ways, urban and city projects. They have had a very successful partnership with DelDOT in this respect. The Forestry Council is about promoting natural growth along highways, reforestation within communities and open spaces as well as intercity plantings. They stressed that this is working but it also requires continued maintenance due to invasive plants. They do receive federally funded grants but are always looking for new revenues. Another project they are working on is "Plants for a Livable Delaware." This project is similar to one in Maryland where they encourage garden centers to educate consumers on plantings that may be harmful to surrounding openspaces and recommend alternative plants. They will also be working with state parks and nature centers to educate people about invasive plants and managed care for plants. Mr. Carney asked if there was anything they wanted the Livable Delaware Council to recommend to the Governor. He then asked if the Green Infrastructures Subcommittee would take up any issues the Forestry Council has. Mr. Hughes said they he would convene the committee if the Forestry Council presented him with an active list of needs.

LIVABILITY INDICATORS

Ms. Walling said she was prepared to come to the table with ten indicators until she ran them by Ed Ratledge, University of Delaware. Mr. Ratledge had some concerns about the material being reader friendly. He will review the list and present his finding at a future meeting. Mr. Carney asked if they were similar to the ones previously presented by Ed O'Donnell. Ms. Walling stated that they are revisiting and updating some of the same ones. Mr. Carney asked Ms. Walling to redistribute Mr. O'Donnell's presentation.

OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Spagnola asked Mr. Hayward to give an update on the Rt. 1 Townsend ramps. The topic opened up a wide range of issues; purchasing land, rezoning, revising Rt. 13's commuter road status, effects of Rt. 1 on local business, why not look at it's effect on business downstate as well, should this Council make recommendations. Mr. Carney, Mr. Ross and Mr. Woodin basically agreed that is was not an issue for the Council, although they should be kept informed. Ms. Spagnola then asked Mr. Carney what the charge of the Council was. Mr. Carney will forward her the verbage pertaining to the Council's charge to Ms. Spagnola. Mr. Hayward said that DelDOT is in the midst of an 18 month EIS process on the Townsend ramp proposal and would be happy to present it to the Council when completed.

Mr. Roy asked about the annexation issue. He heard that the Council will not be proceeding with further discussions on annexation. Mr. Stickles noted that even though the Council may not be involved with annexations, the General Assembly could bring up the issue. Mr. Carney said that there has been no consensus or consistency between counties on the annexation issue and that, "nobody's willing to give any ground."

Ms. Spagnola asked for on update from Governor Minner on recommended funding for forestry protection. Mr. Carney pointed out that due to uncertain economic revenue times, due in part to the possibility of new administrations instituting legalized gambling in neighboring states... Ms. Kriener will work up a response for Ms. Spagnola.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Monday, March 8, 2004 at 1:00 p.m. at the Department of Agriculture's Conference Room, Dover. Look for an e-mail for confirmation and directions.